

TWISTED PAIR COMMUNICATIONS LINE SYSTEM

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CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation-in-part of patent application number 09/294,591, filed 04/20/99 (pending), which is a continuation-in-part of patent application number 08/744,629, filed 11/06/96, now US patent number 5,926,509, which is a continuation-in-part of patent application number 08/741,697, filed 10/31/96 (pending), which is a continuation-in-part of patent application number 08/219,979, filed 03/29/94, now US patent number 5,576,723. Patent application number 08/744,629 also claims the benefit of provisional patent application number 60/010,741, filed 01/29/96. The instant application is also a continuation-in-part of patent application number 08/66,076, filed 06/03/96 (pending) which is a continuation-in-part of patent application number 08/177,442, filed 01/05/94, now abandoned.

20 FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates generally to the transmission of wideband signals over relatively cheap, low-grade cable wherein one of a plurality of computer signals may be coupled to one of a plurality of monitors.

25 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

It is now commonplace to locate computers, keyboards, and monitors, particularly color monitors, at spaced locations in a building or buildings. These

locations often are several hundred feet apart, requiring that where analog color signals are involved that there must be transmitted three separate color signals, each having an approximate frequency range from D.C. up to 200 MHz or so. Thus, there is a requirement that appropriate transmission lines be in place, or
5 be installed, to accommodate such transmissions. As is well known, either fiber optic or multiple coaxial cables may normally be employed, but such is often not installed in a building where the monitors are to be located. Thus, it may be required that appropriate signal conductors for carrying computer video (and data) signals be retrofitted in the building, resulting in considerable expense. Ideally, there may be present, or there might be installed at a lower cost, lower-grade conductors, such as network cable or twisted pair cable, that somehow may be used.

In a co-pending application serial number 08/177,442, an existing cable was of the digital network type, for example having 15 conductors within an outer shield and designed to carry signals on the order of 2,400 baud or so, the conductors of the cable being straight (untwisted) conductors.

The problem with digital network-type cables was to overcome frequency deficiencies (loss) and to overcome signal interaction between color signals as finally received. The solution was that of discovering appropriate
20 frequency-amplitude compensation plus effecting a phase reversal of one of the color signals applied to one conductor (with respect to shield potential) and positioning this one conductor between conductors carrying the other two color signals. At the receiver, the phase-reversed color signal was reversed back to its

original polarity.

The present invention deals with a second type of cable, basically telephone (voice frequency) cable wherein there is included a plurality of twisted pair-type conductors, typically four pairs per cable, for the carrying of the same
5 number of communications.

Telephone cable also has unique problems with respect to frequency compensation. A second problem appears from the finding that different sets of twisted pairs, and in different cables, have a variety of twist rates. These different twist rates for a given cable are provided to prevent telephone crosstalk between different twisted pairs of the cable. Unfortunately, applicants have found that the latter was a culprit in preventing good color signal transmissions since a composite of three color signals, sent on separate twisted pairs, is required, and the different twist rates of conductor pairs caused the lengths of the twisted pairs, and resultant signal delays, to differ. This in turn resulted in the receipt of a composite of color signals with observable impurities and thus an unsatisfactory presentation on a color monitor. Significant, however, was the substantial availability of twisted pair cable and the fact that such cable is already installed in many buildings where computer color video transmissions are now needed. Thus, if it could be employed, such would enable a tremendous
20 savings, a mark of clear technical achievement in view of the fact that the problem has remained unsolved for at least 10 years.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Applicants have discovered that relatively high frequency color video signals may be transmitted with high color purity over a cable having multiple, relatively low frequency, twisted pair telephone lines despite such twisted pair lines having different twist rates, which twist rates being non-uniform between cable manufacturers. Applicants have solved the problem of different twist rates by effecting certain selected frequency compensation to color signals at each end of a cable and by discretely applying delays to the two twisted pair lines having lower twist rates. Alternately, in certain instances, applicants have discovered that adequate color purity may be achievable over cable runs of 300 feet or less by connecting the red video signals to the twisted pair having the smallest twist rate (i.e., lowest twist rate), the green video signals to the twisted pair having the next lowest twist rate, and the blue video signals to the twisted pair having the third lowest twist rate. Typically, then, the synchronization signals would be connected through the twisted pair having the largest twist rate (or tightest twist rate), which synchronization signals being not as critical to color purity as the color signals themselves. In addition, this invention provides for coupling a selected set of transmitted computer signals from one of a plurality of computers to a discrete monitor of a plurality of monitors.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a combination schematic/block diagram showing video outputs from a plurality of computers coupled via switching apparatus to a transmission system of the present invention.

Fig. 1a is a combination block-schematic illustration of a transmitter portion of applicants' system.

Fig. 1b is a combination block-schematic diagram of a receiver portion of applicants' system.

5 Fig. 2 is a schematic illustration of a portion of circuitry shown in block form in Fig. 1a.

Fig. 3 is a pictorial view, partially broken away, of a delay line assembly employable in applicants' system.

Fig. 4 is a sectional view as seen along line 4-4 of Fig. 3.

Fig. 5 is a schematic illustration of a delay line partially shown in Figs. 3 and 4 and particularly illustrating that selected portions of the delay line may be employed for selected delays.

Fig. 6 is a schematic illustration of a portion of Fig. 1b shown in block form.

15 DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring initially to Fig. 1, a non-inverting, constant-current amplifier 101 is shown having an input region 103 and an output region 107. Input region 103 is particularly coupled to source 108 of degraded analog video signals, in this example derived from one of a plurality of computers switched by
20 assignee's Commander(tm) module, with resultant lowered amplitude and attenuation of high frequency components of the signal. In this embodiment wherein the Commander(tm) module is used, an output analog video signal is provided by an emitter 126 of a PNP transistor 117 in the Commander(tm)

module. Output region 107 of amplifier 101 is coupled to a load having known characteristics, such as an analog video monitor 118 or other analog device, with amplifier 101 providing a non-inverted, amplified representation of the input signal across the load. Where the output is coupled to a conventional analog VGA computer monitor 118, the monitor represents a load 119, which may be a resistor of about 75 ohms, with the output signal from region 107 across this 75 ohm load being about 700 millivolts. In this instance, it is to be appreciated that there would be a discrete circuitry 101 for each of the discrete video signals which, in the instance of a VGA monitor, include primary red, green, and blue analog signals. While this circuitry in a preferred embodiment is to be implemented with respect to the currently manufactured Commander(tm) module, it will be apparent to those skilled in the art that numerous other applications exist where non-inverting analog amplification with an enhanced output is required or desired.

Network 131, an impedance including a capacitive reactance, as will be described, is coupled from the input emitter 126 of transistor 117 to the emitter of transistor 123. Generally, in the Commander(tm) module, PNP transistor 117 is coupled in emitter-follower configuration and connected to network 131, with a base 120 of transistor 117 being coupled to a relatively weak analog video input signal. As such, collector 121 of transistor 117 is coupled to ground, providing an alternate current path to ground for the video signal. Resistor 128 of network 131 has a value of about 20 ohms, and capacitor 129 has a value of about 220 pF, network 131 serving to divert current in a direct relationship from the load

impedance responsive to positive voltage excursions of the input signal applied to base 120. Impedance network 131 may be fixed to provide a generally fixed gain amplifier or one which can provide variable gains and in selected frequency ranges, the impedance including capacitive reactance, with this reactance
5 coupled as shown between emitter 126 and emitter 125 of transistors 117 and 123. Such reactance is chosen to approximately equal the combined reactance effects of transistors 127 and 123 and a cable connected to load 119. Collector 134 of transistor 123 may be coupled across a load impedance 119 to the input of a conductor of a communications cable. As an example, for transistors 117 and 123, one may employ a transistor 2N2907a or equivalent, which is characterized by having a typical current gain of about 200 and is further able to maintain constant emitter voltage for a given base voltage. Typically, several reactance sets of RC may be employed, the choice being as to number and value for particular frequency ranges to be high frequency boosted, which in turn is a function of transistor effects of transistors 117 and 123 and the length of a cable.

A constant current source 136, which may be a conventional one, such as a fixed bias transistor coupled to a stable voltage source, e.g., 4.5 volts, is coupled to terminal 140 between network 131 and emitter 119 and provides a current limited source of about 9.33 milliamps to be divided between network
20 131 and transistor 123. A voltage divider circuit 142 includes a resistor 144 coupled at one end to the 4.5-volt voltage source at terminal 138 and at an opposite end to terminal 152, also coupled to base 148 of transistor 123. A second resistor 150 is coupled at one end to a ground potential and at an

opposite end to junction 152, with values of resistors 144 and 150 selected to provide a potential to base 148 of transistor 123 no lower than a highest anticipated peak input potential of the analog signal at the base of transistor 117, including any D.C., offset that may be present.

5 In the Commander(tm) module, it has been found that the analog video signal may be degraded to about 450 millivolts with a positive 150-millivolt D.C. offset. Thus, values of resistors 144 and 150 are selected to provide about 650 millivolts to terminal 152. With the described voltages applied to transistor 123, a lowest input signal at the input diverts current flow from transistor 123 to flow
10 through resistor 128, reducing current flow through transistor 123 and the voltage at terminal 138 to a point where transistor 123 is biased in its operating range just above its cutoff point. As the input signal increases, current flow through resistor 128 decreases, slightly increasing a voltage level at terminal 140, biasing transistor 123 to a more conductive state and resulting in more
15 current flow through transistor 123 and in turn increasing potential 107, for example, monitor 118, in direct relation with the input signal.

In the instance where the signal from source 108 is of lowered amplitude and is attenuated, but possesses sufficient current sourcing capabilities to drive network 131, the analog input signal is the input signal
20 coupled directly to network 131, as represented by dashed line 154. In this configuration, resistors 144 and 150 are selected to provide a voltage at terminal 152 of about 650 millivolts below a highest anticipated peak input potential of the analog signal in order to compensate for elimination of the diode drop of

transistor 117. Additionally, an output driver of routing circuit 108 would also be conventionally configured to provide an alternate current path to ground, as illustrated by ground 126. In this instance, when the input signal is at a lower state, current flows from current source 36 through network 131 to ground 129.

5 While the specific example described above which includes transistor 117 is an application tailored for the Commander(tm) module wherein the load is resistive in nature, a more generalized representation of the instant invention without transistor 117 may be illustrated where both load and bypass impedances are complex impedances. Theoretically, and assuming a transistor has a high current gain for transistor 123, the impedance of network 131 may be represented as Z_b , with the analog signal source voltage represented by V_i , which in this instance, is coupled directly to load 119 (dashed line 154), and the highest excursion of the analog signal defined by V_x . Current through impedance Z_b , is represented as I_l . The voltage applied to base 148 is represented as $V_f = V_x \text{ peak} - 0.650$, and, as stated, is selected to be no lower than the highest peak amplitude of the input signal V_X minus the approximately 650 millivolt diode drop of the emitter-base junction of transistor 123. With such voltages applied to transistor 123, the voltage at junction 140 only fluctuates slightly due to the fixed base voltage and the forward biased emitter-base junction of transistor 123, with this slight fluctuation being sufficient to directly vary conductivity of transistor 123 and resultant current flow therethrough with respect to the input signal. This generally constant voltage at junction 140 is represented by V_x (max peak amplitude), with I_c being current from constant current supply 136. The

load is represented by Z_L , a complex impedance, with current flow through the load represented as I_2 and voltage across load Z_L represented as V_0 . With such designations, voltage across the load is defined by:

$$V_0 = I_2 \times Z_L$$

and the constant current into junction 140 is a sum of the output currents, or:

$$I_c = I_1 + I_2$$

The deflected current through impedance Z_b is defined by:

$$I_c = V_x - V_1 / Z_b$$

with the inversely proportional flow of current through load Z_L defined by:

$$I_2 \times -I_c - I_i = I_c - V_x - V_1 / Z_b$$

and the voltage across the load defined by:

$$V_0 = Z_L I_2 = (I_2 V_x - V / Z_b) \times Z_L$$

For a change of input voltage V_1 ,

$$V_{po} = (I_c - V_x - V_1 / Z_b \times Z_l) = (0 - (0 - V_1) / Z_b) \times Z_l$$

which, when resolved, becomes:

5 $V_O = V_i / Z_b \times Z_l$

yielding an A.C. gain of:

$$V_O / V_i = Z_l / Z_b$$

10 Thus, it is seen that gain of the amplifier is strictly controlled by load impedance and impedance between the emitters. In the specific example given for the Commander(tm) module, impedance of load Z_b , is about 75 ohms resistive, the magnitude of impedance of network 131 at a D.C. potential is about 20 ohms, and at 30 MHz, is about 0.6 ohms, as given by the generalized circuit analysis in the foregoing and familiar to anyone skilled in the art. Therefore, it is demonstrated that the above-described amplifier of the preferred embodiment possesses frequency sensitive gain which varies from a gain of about 75/20-3.75 (Z_l divided by Z_b ,) at a D.C. level and a gain of about 75/0.6 = 125 at 30 MHz.

20 For the various embodiments illustrated and described hereinafter, the coupling impedance is first determined and gain calculated by dividing load impedance by the coupling impedance.

In operation, and referring to Fig. 1, a degraded analog video signal

voltage referenced to ground from the Commander(tm) module is taken from one of a plurality of computers C and intended to be applied to an analog computer monitor is applied to base 120 of transistor 117. In this instance, bias voltages of transistors 117 and 123 are obtained from terminal 140, with a reference
5 voltage of about 600 millivolts taken from terminal 138 and applied to base 148 of transistor 123. The voltage at terminal 140 is about 1.2 volts, which is a diode drop of about 650 millivolts above the reference voltage applied to base 148, and which is varied as described by transistor 117 responsive to excursions of the input signal applied to base 120. The input signal is degraded to the extent of loss of high frequencies necessary and is offset by a positive D.C. bias of about 150 millivolts due to switching levels in the Commander(tm) module and degraded in amplitude to have a swing of about 450 millivolts between about 150 millivolts and 600 millivolts. This signal, when at the 150 millivolt level and applied to base 120 of transistor 117, biases transistor 117 ON, deflecting
15 virtually all the 9.33 milliamps from current source 136 through 20-ohm resistor 128 due to the difference of voltage potentials on either side of resistor 128, with this current being applied to ground via transistor 117. This depletes current flow through transistor 123 and reduces voltage at terminal 140 to just above a cutoff voltage, reducing the IR voltage drop across the monitor load to 0 volts. As
20 the input signal applied to base 120 rises to about 600 millivolts, transistor 117 is biased toward its cutoff region; and with about 1.2 volts applied to emitter 126 from terminal 140, less current flows through network 131 due to decreasing potential difference across resistor 128. This in turn slightly increases potential

at terminal 140 such that transistor 123 is biased more toward a conductive state, resulting in increasing current flow through transistor 123 to the 75-ohm load in monitor 118. As the potential across network 13 equilibrates as transistor 117 is driven toward cutoff, the entire 9.33 milliamps from constant current source 136 is shifted to flow through transistor 123 and the 75 ohm monitor load, increasing the potential across the 75 ohm load to about 700 millivolts, a conventional level for an analog monitor.

As described, as the input signal fluctuates between low and high levels, the constant current is divided and fluctuates with the input-signal between transistors 117 and 123. In the absence of transistor 117, an analog video signal extending from about 150 millivolts or lower to about 600 millivolts is applied to network 131, and when at the lowest level, draws a highest level of current flow through network 131, which current flow applied to ground 126 reduces potential on emitter 119 to a level to bias transistor 123 to a higher impedance, reducing output on collector 134 to 0 volts. As the signal applied to network 131 increases, less current flows through resistor 128, increasing a potential at terminal 140 and biasing transistor 123 to a more conductive state in direct relationship with the input signal, shifting current flow to the load via transistor 123 and increasing voltage drop thereacross. In the event the input signal exceeds the reference potential applied to terminal 152, as by a noise spike, biasing transistor 123 into saturation, the load is generally protected from an overvoltage condition due to the constant current source 136 providing only 9.33 milliamps current flow to the load.

Referring now to Fig. 1a and Fig. 1b, there is shown a largely schematic electrical diagram of another embodiment of the invention wherein the plurality of computers as shown in Fig. 1 each provides a set of red (SR), green (SG) and blue (SB) color video signals. A switching circuit, such as the aforementioned Commander(tm) module, serves as a source of the signals, providing a selected set of red (SR), green (SG) and blue (SB) color video signals to respective transmitters, each similar to the circuitry as shown in Fig. 1, as should be apparent to one skilled in the art. Vertical (SV) and horizontal (Sn) synchronization signals are also transmitted, as will be described.

As shown, the three-color video signals are supplied to three like transmitter circuits 12, 14, and 16, one of which, circuit 12, is shown in detail. The synchronization signals SV and SH are supplied to time multiplexer 18 which conventionally time multiplexes these signals and provides a combined output signal S to an input of cross-switcher 34.

Referring first to transmitter circuit 12, the input signal SB, the blue video signal, is supplied by computer 10 to transmitter 12. Signal SB and the other color outputs of computer 10 each typically vary over a range from 0 to 750 millivolts, and need a frequency response up to about 200 MHz.

Referring to Fig. 1a, transistor Q9 receives on its base an SB signal, across resistor 36 from computer 10, and basically serves as a buffer, providing, from its emitter, an input through resistor R35 to the base of transistor Q10 of differential amplifier 26. Differential amplifier 26 basically functions as a single-ended to balanced converter to convert the color video signals from a single-

ended signal format to a balanced signal format prior to transmission of the signal. The emitter of transistor Q9 is D.C. biased through resistors R35 and R38 from a five-volt positive (+) terminal, designated Vcc throughout Figs. 1a and 1b. The base of transistor Q10 is biased through resistor R38, and capacitor C7 provides a decoupling effect across the Vcc terminal. The collector of transistor Q9 is connected to ground.

Transistors Q10 and Q12 are coupled, as will be described, as a differential amplifier 26 providing high frequency boost. The emitter of transistor Q10 is biased through resistors R40 and R51 from the Vcc terminal, and the Vcc voltage is decoupled at resistor R51 by capacitor C19. The emitters of transistors Q10 and Q12 are connected by resistor R40 and by a series of RC high frequency boost filter circuits, as will be discussed below. The emitter of transistor Q12 is D.C. biased from the Vcc through resistor R51.

The base of transistor Q12 is biased through resistor R39 from the Vcc terminal as effected by the load manifested at junction SJ1. A portion of this load is manifested from D.C. restorer 45 as driven by differential amplifier 26, shown in greater detail in Fig. 2. The net effect of this is a closed loop feedback that receives the voltage appearing at the base input of transistor Q12 which, of course, varies. This in turn varies the total current feeding the amplifier through resistor R51, and the balance of current is split between transistors Q10 and Q12 to maintain truly balanced outputs. Thus, while the circuit of amplifier 101 as shown in Fig. 1 is used as a single-ended amplifier with frequency sensitive gain, a very similar amplifier configuration is shown in Figs. 1a and 1b and used as a

differential amplifier with frequency sensitive gain.

It is to be noted that the balanced output of differential amplifier 26 appears across the combination of transistor Q10 collector resistor R37 and transistor Q12 collector resistor R43.

5 As suggested above, and significantly, differential amplifier 26 provides several stages of high frequency boost as shown by RC circuits RC1 - RC6 and C29, connected between the emitters of transistors Q10 and Q12.

10 The emitters of transistors Q10 and Q12 are also coupled by resistor R40, which is of a value of approximately 118 ohms and acts as the D.C. gain of the circuit.

15 High frequency boost stages RC1, RC2, and RC3, each comprising a resistor and a capacitor in series, and each having a discrete time constant accomplished by sizing of the capacitor of the stage to achieve a high frequency boost for different portions of the spectrum of interest from 0 to 200 MHz.

20 In addition, there are provided three selectable high frequency boost stages, RC4, RC5, and RC6, each of which is switched in or out by a switch 56 shown in the open position. In operation, one or more of these switches is closed as deemed necessary as a direct function of the length of cable to be used and as a function of the condition of the twisted pairs employed. Thus, RC4, RC5 and RC6 would additively be inserted as necessary to achieve the desired degree of signal purity at a monitor 69 as switched by switch 68 (Fig. 1b). Switch 68 is configured to switch the red, green and blue video color signals, in addition to the synchronization signals, so that these signals are applied to one of lines 69a

each terminating at a monitor. Thus, the present system enables the switching of any one of several computer outputs to any one of several remotely located monitors 69 (only 1 shown).

As shown in Fig. 2, a sample of the output of differential amplifier 26, taken across collector-resistors R37 and R43, is fed to operational amplifier U2 through resistors R41 and R44. A negative feedback path is provided by capacitor C31 from the output of operational amplifier U2 to its inverting input.

The output of operational amplifier U2 is fed to the base input of transistor Q11, there being capacitor C28 connected between the base of it and ground, which capacitor is sized, e.g., 22 μ F to 100 μ F to stabilize the base voltage of transistor Q11. The emitter of transistor Q11 is connected to the base of transistor Q12 at summing junction SJ1, and the collector of transistor Q11 is grounded. As one function of transistor Q11, transistor Q12 receives a base voltage raised by a diode drop through transistor Q11, a like raise as provided by transistor Q9 to transistor Q10 (Fig. 1a), to basically balance the D.C. levels of the two. In this respect, transistor Q11 functions as a part of D.C. restorer and functions for the purpose of stabilization as well as providing an offset voltage to the base of transistor Q12 of differential amplifier 26 to match that provided by transistor Q9.

Referring back to Fig. 1a, the output of transmitter circuit 12 appears across collector-resistors R37 and R38, each connected to ground, and together providing a balanced output. These resistors each have a value of approximately 50 ohms to, together, match the rather standard impedance of 100 ohms of

twisted pair telephone lines, such as T1 - T4 of cable 57.

Each of transmitter circuits 14 and 16 are identical with that of transmitter circuit 12, and thus together they apply blue (B), red (R), and green (G) input signals to discrete input ports P1 - P3 of cross-switcher 34.

5 Multiplexer 18 time multiplexes the vertical and horizontal signals SV and SH from computer 10, and the resulting signal is applied as an input S to a discrete port P4 of cross-switcher 34. It has an output impedance of 100 ohms to match a twisted pair T4 of cable 57. Thus, in all, there are four signal inputs to cross-switcher 34.

10 Basically, cross-switcher 34 is configured to connect any one of its input signals at ports P1-P4 to any one of its output ports P01 - P04, to which any particular pair of twisted pairs T1 - T4 of a cable, having various arrangements of twisted pairs and twist rates, may be connected. Thus, as shown, cable 57, a common cable, has four twisted pair conductors, T1 - T4, and
15 these are connected to discrete output ports P01 - P04 of cross-switcher 34. This enables the systematic employment of cable manufactured by a number of different manufacturers, with a variety of twist rates for individual twisted pairs to be selectively coupled, as will be described. Typically, all twisted pairs of a cable have twist rates which differ between pairs, to prevent cross-talk in normal
20 telephone usage.

Here, the magnitude of twist rate is used to designate cable pairs, this being from an examination wherein it has been found that cable pair T1 has the lowest twist rate, and cable pair T4 has the highest or largest twist rate.

Applicants have determined that the connection pattern of cross-switcher 34 would be such that the S output of multiplexer 18 would be connected to a cable pair T4 of cable 57, it having the highest twist rate and thus the longest length. This follows from the determination that its twist rate and thus its inherent
5 longest signal delay is not usually critical.

The B or blue output from transmitter circuit 12 is connected to the twisted pair T3 having the next lower twist rate; the G or green output from transmitter circuit 16 is connected to the next lower twist rate pair, T2. The R or red output of transmitter circuit 14 is connected to the lowest rate cable pair T1 of cable 57 thus having the shortest overall length.

The relative twist rates of twisted pairs can be determined by a visual inspection of approximately six inches of the cable being examined, and therefrom connections would be arranged in terms of the foregoing system of connection.

The length of cable 57 would typically be in the approximate range of from 300 up to about 1,500 feet.

Referring to Fig. 1b, twisted pairs T1 - T4 terminate in the order of input ports P1 - P4 of connector 67. Connector 67 effects a connection between input ports P1 - P4 of these cable pairs to a series of its coordinate outputs PO1 - P04, including those labeled simply R (red), G (green), B (blue), and S
20 (synchronization) in this same order.

As a feature of this invention, for cables of a length of shorter than about 300 feet, the outputs would be directly connected to the same designated

color inputs of receivers 74, 76, and 78 through cross-switcher 73, performing a like function to that of cross-switcher 34 as shown in parenthetically enclosed small letters. Also, as shown in Fig. 1b, this is effected by the closure of switches 51 and 52 to bypass time delay units 61 and 63. This configuration arises from the discovery that with shorter length cables (<300 feet), cable pairs may be employed with different twist rates where they carry the particular colors as shown and still provide adequate signal purity without time compensation.

Demultiplexer 66 is fed an S signal from P04 of connector 67, and this signal is then separated back into horizontal H and vertical V signals and to thus be directly applied to analog monitor 69 via switch 68 as described.

For greater lengths, and as a further feature of this invention, the green and red signals are delayed. Thus, with this mode of operation, cross-switcher 73 is adjusted such that input P1, the red input, is connected to either the P02 or P03 output, and the green input at P3 is connected to the other of the P02 or P03 output. Input P3 of cross-switcher 73, the blue input, is connected to output P01. The position of particular color outputs of the cross-switcher are shown in capital letters B, G, and R. Delays units 61 and 63 are in circuit with the red and green signals, and the delay units are adjusted to compensate for the particular added lengths of twisted pairs T2 and T3 when compared with the length of twisted pair T1. Thereby, the time of arrival of the signals at monitor 69 can be adjusted so that all three signals arrive at the same time. There is, as shown, additional signal processing by receivers 74, 76, and 78, as will be further discussed below.

Figs. 3-5 illustrate the construction of one of the delay units of delay units 61 and 63 of Fig. 1b as delay unit 64. Thus, a delay unit 64 is formed with a dielectric base or insulating board 70 such as fiberglass, typically used in printed circuit boards. A printed conductor 62 is on one side, and directly opposite on the other side is printed conductor 65. Thus, with such parallel conductors separated by an insulating board 70, there is created discrete lengths of balanced transmission lines, as illustrated in Fig. 5. The thickness and material of the board determine a dielectric coefficient which basically determines the characteristic impedance of the transmission line, which in this case has been chosen with a thickness of 0.032 inch to create a transmission line having about the same propagation factor as twisted pair lines T1 - T4 and with a like characteristic impedance of approximately 100 ohms, matching the usual or standard impedance of the twisted pair communications lines. The propagation factors of both the twisted pair lines and transmission line are approximately 0.69.

As shown in Fig. 5, each of the separate transmission lines D1 - D5 of conductor pairs 62 and 65 are of the same length and are compressed by the serpentine arrangement to fit an approximately 4½ x 7-inch board 70. The conductors have a width of approximately 0.028 inch and thickness of approximately 0.0015 inch and are typically constructed of printed circuit board copper trace. The conductors have break points as illustrated in Fig. 5 wherein, in practice, the lengths of the separate delay lines, D1, D2, D3, D4, and D5, each have an actual length of approximately 65 centimeters to create a delay of 5

nanoseconds or a total delay of 25 nanoseconds.

Referring further to Fig. 5, an input signal to signal pair 80 of delay unit 64, as from cross-switcher 73 (Fig. 1b), connects to terminals 82 and 84, one of them, terminal 82, being attached to a conductor of pair 80 on the reverse side of board 64, and terminal 84 being connected to the other conductor of pair 80 on the top side of board 70. Similarly, a signal output line 83, to one of receivers 74 or 76, would have its conductors connected to conductor terminal 81 on the top side of board 64, and terminal 85 on the bottom side of board 70.

Circuit connections are variably made for different delays by means of straps, for example, a strap 96, on each side of board 70 would connect in circuit any number of delay units D1, D2, D3, D4, and D5. Again, only the unit conductor terminals for the one side are shown, it being understood that the same designation and pattern of terminals and straps is provided on the opposite side, and the same pattern of strapping between units would be accomplished.

Thus, in order to employ a minimum delay, utilizing delay line D1, terminals 92 and 94 would be strapped together by a strap 96, whereby, as is apparent, only delay unit D1 would be in circuit between input and output signal lines 80 and 83 for a delay of 5 nanoseconds.

If it is desired to add another 5 nanoseconds of delay, straps 96 interconnect terminals 92 and 102, and strap 106 interconnects terminals 104 and 105. Following the same pattern of connection, if additional delay is needed, a strap would interconnect one of terminals 109, 111, 113, or 115, with an opposite terminal of terminals 110, 112, 114, or 116, and preceding straps would

be employed in the fashion illustrated to further serialize delay units D3, D4, and/or D5,

As described, and referring to Fig. 1b, two of the delay units 64, as delay units 61 and 63 (Fig. 1b), are typically employed, one in circuit with each of
5 twisted pairs from terminals P02 and P03 of cross-switcher 73. As stated, the red and green color signals are applied to conductor pairs having the smaller of the twist rates of the conductor pairs. Thus, in the illustration, the applicants have chosen to connect via cross-switcher 73, at the far end of cable 57, the red signal R and green signal G to twisted pairs T2 and T3. The green and red signals are connected to signal delay units 61 and 63, respectively, and the blue or B signal connected directly to the P input of cross-switcher 73. The switched delays set forth for each board 64 would be such as to compensate for the differences in lengths of twisted pairs and produce an essentially equal path for each color transmission. This may be accomplished by observing monitor 69.
10 Alternately, the transmission lines, with appropriate input and output couplers (providing an input and output to an unbalanced line) may be unbalanced lines wherein there would simply be a conductive plate on one side of board 70 and only the conductors on the opposite side are employed and are switchable.

The discrete outputs of cross-switcher 73 are connected, as shown, to
20 the discrete balanced inputs of identical receivers 74, 76, and 78, receiver 74 being shown in detail. Examining receiver 74 (Fig. 1b), a receiver input from terminal output P01 obtains a signal appearing across resistors R15 and R23 balanced to ground through capacitor C203. The input across R15 is applied

through capacitor C17 to the base input of transistor Q1 and the other input is applied across resistor R23 and through capacitor C23 to the base input of transistor Q2. These two transistors are connected and operate as a differential amplifier 110. One of the outputs of differential amplifier 110 is taken as a single-ended output and fed via switch 68 to a selected one of the monitors 69, thus amplifier 110 functions as a balanced to single-ended converter.

Referring now additionally to Fig. 6, the bases of transistors Q2 and Q1 are biased through separate paths, one being through R25, R24, and R22 to the base of transistor Q2 and through resistors P25, P24, and P14 to the base of transistor Q1. Bias is from a positive source terminal Vcc, this bias being bypassed to ground through capacitor C11. The base bias to transistors Q2 and Q1 as it appears at summing junction SJ2 is also effected by the emitter voltage of transistor Q4 of buffer 120. Buffer 120 is in turn driven by the collector output of transistor Q2 taken across collector-resistor R36 and a high frequency attenuator 122, which functions to roll off excess energy on the video signal (i.e., overshoot) to enhance signal purity to monitor 69. The control of transistor Q4 is described below with respect to a further description of Fig. 6.

The emitters of transistors Q2 and Q1 are supplied current and bias control by control 130 (Fig. 1b) which employ transistor Q5 (Fig. 5) by receiving a voltage bias on its base. The emitter bias to transistors Q1 and Q2 is supplied from the collector of transistor Q5 through resistors R13 and R21, respectively, and the amplification of this current is set by the magnitude of the value of resistor R26 and the emitter voltage of transistor Q5.

Differential amplifier 110, which is basically formed by transistors Q2 and Q1, includes a high frequency boost circuit and wherein there are four serially-connected RC circuits RC7, RC8, RC9, and RC10, each circuit connected between the emitter of transistors Q2 and Q1 and each having a time constant to deal with discrete portions of the desired frequency response boost, from D.C. to 200 MHz. Additionally, capacitor C8, also connected between the emitters of transistors Q2 and Q1, has a value of approximately 150 pF and functions to add selected high frequency boost as necessary and as a direct function of the length of transmission line.

In this case, as it is desired to obtain only a single-ended output of differential amplifier 110, a single load resistor, being R36, is connected between the collector of transistor Q2 and ground, and the collector of transistor Q1 is directly grounded. The output of differential amplifier 110, across resistor R36, is buffered through transistor Q7 (Fig. 6) and its emitter provides the blue signal to the selected monitor 69.

As noted above, Fig. 6 separately illustrates circuitry for providing an additional biasing effect to the bases and emitters of transistors Q1 and Q2, this being present at summing junction SJ2 and effecting the emitter biasing by control of emitter bias control 130 (Fig. 1b).

Referring again more particularly to Fig. 6, a sample signal input for the circuitry is obtained across receiver output resistor R36 and high frequency attenuator 122, as discussed above, and is applied to the base input of transistor Q7 of a buffer stage including transistors Q7 and Q10 wherein the collector

output of transistor Q7 is fed to the base input of transistor Q10 and the two providing, as described above, a buffer which drives the selected monitor 69.

To effect operation, a D.C. bias is applied from a Vcc, AC bypassed by capacitor C21, through resistor R35 to the emitter of transistor Q10a and additionally through resistor R34 to the base of transistor Q10a and collector of transistor Q7. The output of this amplifier or buffer stage at the connected emitter of transistor Q7 and collector of transistor Q10 is fed directly to the selected monitor 69 and through resistor R33 to the base of transistor Q9a of differential amplifier stage 71 of D.C. restoration circuit 124.

Differential amplifier 71 basically employs transistors Q9a and Q8, and the emitters are connected together and biased by a +, or Vcc terminal through resistor R16. The base of transistor Q9a is biased through resistor R32 from a Vcc terminal, and the base of transistor Q8 is biased through resistor R28 from the Vcc terminal. Resistor R27, bypassed by stabilizing capacitor C23, is connected between the base of transistor Q8 and ground. The collector output of transistor Q8, appearing across capacitors C21 and C19 as stabilizing capacitors, is connected to the base input of transistor Q4. The collector of transistor Q4 is connected to ground, and a stabilizing capacitor C20 is connected between the emitter and ground, with the result that a restored D.C. voltage is applied to summing junction SJ1. At this summing junction the conventional bias from the Vcc terminal and the effect of emitter-collector reaction of transistor Q4 meet, with the result that this voltage plus base currents from transistors Q1 and Q2 across resistors R14 and R22 provide D.C.

bias for D.C. restoration circuit 124.

Thus, as one effect of the above, the voltage drop across resistor 25, bypassed to ground by capacitor C15 and applied to the base of transistor Q5, determines the amount of current supplied to differential amplifier 110 through resistors R13 and R21. Finally, a Vcc terminal is connected through resistor R26 to the emitter of transistor Q5, and the collector of this transistor provides a current limitation characterized type bias through resistors R13 and R21, respectively, to emitters of transistors Q1 and Q2.

As a result of the base bias voltages, derived as stated, to transistors Q1 and Q2 and the emitter biases to transistors Q1 and Q2 as just described, there is effectively created a feedback system which modulates supply current to transistors Q1 and Q2 at a voltage to maintain the collector outputs of transistors Q1 and Q2 within a selected range, as at the output of transistor Q2 and across resistor R36. Accordingly, there is provided an optimum single-ended video signal for the base of transistor Q7 and an optimum output to monitor 69.

Receiver 74 thus functions to provide a high frequency boost by virtue of RC circuits 7, 8, 9, 10, and C8 which effects AC gain and phase shifts at various frequencies in the frequency region up to 200 MHz and thus to achieve a final frequency compensated signal response to monitor 69.

Referring back to Fig. 1b, the output of receiver 74, as thus boosted by the RC circuits illustrated and as attenuated by attenuator HFA 122, is buffered and then fed as a blue input to analog color monitor 69 via switch 68, as described.

Green and red receivers 76 and 78 are illustrated only in block form and function as receiver 74, as described above. The outputs of the receivers are provided to a selected monitor 69 through switch 68, being a green signal as the output of receiver 76 and as a red signal of the output of receiver 78. With the frequency compensation and delay adjustments described above, there is provided to the selected monitor 69 a coordinate signal wherein the interconnections and timings of the color signals are such as to provide a composite signal with excellent color quality despite the most unlikely medium of cable transmission. Again, the adjustments are simply to adjust the filter insertions and delay insertions, as described above, to effect optimum quality.

Most significantly, this invention provides a means of color communications in literally thousands of locations having twisted pair installations at low cost which otherwise could cost the users quite large sums as required to replace twisted pair telephone lines with conventional high frequency conductors.

After having thus described our invention and the manner of its use, it should be clear to one skilled in the art that incidental changes may be made thereto that fairly fall within the scope of the following appended claims, wherein we claim: